

# Camp Alexander Mack

## Highlights of What's Inside

- ⇒ Upcoming Events (p 2); Get-A-Way Days (p 3)
- ⇒ "Peaceful Work — Peaceful Rest" with Gene: the Peace Garden story, a beautiful new space (p 4)
- ⇒ Summer Camp 2022 Save the Date (p 5)
- ⇒ "Checklist Complete" with Jessie: checklists for seasons and transitions, plus a T-Rex (p 6)
- ⇒ "United Way's 'Day of Caring' with Zimmer-Biomet Groups" with Galen: three projects worked on (p 7)
- ⇒ "Joy Like a Fountain" with Deanna: nephew, solo trip, new friend, and summer smiles (p 8)
- ⇒ Diversity Report (p 9)
- ⇒ 2021 Wish List (p 10)
- ⇒ "Antennas, and Switches, and CAT6, Oh My!" with Todd: internet installation process (p 11)
- ⇒ "Successful Summer, Lots of Thanks" with Vanessa: evaluating summer; kind recognition (p 12)
- ⇒ "Garden Club Ends on a High Note" with Kristen: a fun retreat at camp to wrap up the year (p 13 & 14)
- ⇒ Camp Mack 5K and Camp Mack Festival (p 15)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Labor Day Family Camp**, September 3–6: This camp offers something for the entire family! Swimming, boating, crafts, and community worship are available, along with age-appropriate classes and discussion groups. Enjoy all of the fun and meaningful components of camp as a family unit. Invite grandparents and friends, too! Families of all ages are welcome. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. \$100 (after 7/14) with options for shortened stays. Additional fees for lodging and meals.
- **5K**, September 19: Join us at camp for a fun day of exercise! To register online, follow this link: <https://www.campmack.org/5k/> Fee: \$25 for 5K, \$15 for Kids' Fun Run, \$75 per family
- **FLYE Weekend**, October 1–2: This Fun Leadership Youth Event will train youth to be leaders through team building, service, and leadership. Teens will lead through service at the Camp Mack Festival. This weekend will help youth grow in leadership and may lead them to serving as a CIT (Counselor In Training) or counselor at Camp Mack. Ages: 14–17. Fee: \$25.
- **Camp Mack Festival**, October 2: Food, fellowship, and fun for the whole family. Enjoy a wide range of entertainment, demonstrations, crafts, food, and other activities. Free admission and parking. Festival proceeds support camp ministries. 9a to 4p.
- **Father Son Retreat**, October 9–10: The theme this year is, “Go!” Join Caterpie and Mudkip for a weekend of geocaching, building bat boxes, and intergenerational gaming. Bring a friend for a weekend of discovery and seeking. Ages: fathers, sons, brothers, grandpas, and men of all ages. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Fee: \$50 per child ages 5–8, \$85 per person age 9 to adult. 9a Saturday to 1p Sunday.
- **CANCELLED EVENTS:**
  - **Build-A-Drum Workshop**, October 29–31 (not the Get-A-Way Day)
  - **Pastor's Sabbath**, November 2–3



**Plan now for these upcoming events!**  
For more info, check out [campmack.org](http://campmack.org) or a Camp Mack brochure. You may also call the office at 574-658-4831. Click “Register Online” at the top of the page at [campmack.org](http://campmack.org).



# GET-A-WAY DAYS

- **Soap Making Get-A-Way Day**, September 11: Learn the basics of cold process soap making! Gain hands-on experience and discuss the saponification process, using natural colorants, design techniques, and the curing process. Please wear long pants, long sleeves, and closed-toe shoes. 9a to 3p. Cost: \$40 (lunch included). Limit: 10 participants. Sarah Major Basement.
- **CANCELLED EVENTS:**
  - **Write Your Story Get-A-Way Day**, September 11
- **October Get-A-Way Days:**
  - October 16: **Scrapbooking**
  - October 16: **Knitting and Crocheting**
  - October 17: **Fall Nut and Tree ID Walk**
  - October 23: **Prairie Restoration Work Day**
  - October 30: **Children's Drum Building**

## **RETREAT & OTHER SAVE THE DATES**

- **Quilt Retreat**, October 13–17: Limited spaces. \$140 per quilter arriving Friday evening, \$150 per quilter arriving on Friday morning, \$186 per quilter arriving on Thursday evening, \$211 per quilter arriving on Wednesday evening.
- **Scrapbook Retreat**, October 14–17: \$134 per scrapper arriving on Friday evening, \$148 per scrapper arriving on Friday morning, \$168 per scrapper arriving on Thursday evening.
- **Seasoned Citizens**, October 18–21: \$185 per person, or \$125 if not staying overnight.
- **Volunteer Work Days**, October 25–27
- **Annual Dinner**, November 6



All events will adhere to state and local guidelines and are subject to change accordingly.  
Before participating, please be considerate of other people's health by assessing your own.  
Thank you.

## News from the Director

### Peaceful Work — Peaceful Rest

*“Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I’m gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30 (CEB)*

One of the most popular new sites at Camp Mack is the Peace Garden above Lake Waubee. For over twenty years, various ideas for a meditative garden had been offered, but in 2019, it was finally included in the capital campaign. The concept was to create a garden centered around the Peace Pole with brick patios for rest and prayer.

An important, but often unused space was selected for the garden and Judy DePue, a landscape designer, long-time volunteer, and member of Creekside Church of the Brethren, created a design that was approved by the Indiana Camp Board. With funds released for the building of the first phase, work was scheduled to begin in 2020. Originally, the plan was to start building in April, take a break for summer camp, and return to the work in August.

When March came around, things changed. The State of Indiana shut everything down, and the work was postponed. In April, the camp announced that all on-site summer programs were canceled. By June, the state was lifting some restrictions, and the decision was made to begin work on the garden.

From the middle of June through early October, Judy and a determined group of volunteers and staff cut sod, spread base material and sand, leveled and placed bricks, moved topsoil and compost, built structures, assembled benches, planted, and mulched. The work was hard, especially when masked on those hot and humid summer days. But, in the end, there were two significant outcomes.

The first is a beautiful garden that has been enjoyed throughout the summer. The second may be more important. It is the peace so many volunteers found in the work. The volunteers were able to leave the isolation of their homes and be productive in a safe and supportive community. The work provided satisfaction and joy in a difficult time.

We are now well into the second phase with a half-labyrinth almost completed and more plantings scheduled. The Peace Garden is living up to its name as it brings peaceful healing to the builders and peaceful rest to the community. Come to the garden.

Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



Photo above and bottom right taken by Tim Morphew, volunteer





# CAMP ALEXANDER MACK

## Summer Camp 2022

*\*Grades are grade completed at the time of camp*

Archery Camp	June 5—9	Samplers	July 10—12
Grades 6—9		Grades 1—2	
Samplers	June 5—7	Splash Camp	July 10—15
Grades 1—2		Grades 5—8	
Samplers	June 12—14	Finders Camp	July 10—15
Grades 1—2		Grades 5—6	
Grand Camp	June 16—18	Creative Arts	July 10—15
Ages 5-10/Grandparents		Grades 6—10	
CIT CAMP	June 19—24	Survivor Camp	July 10—16
Ages 14—17		Grades 6—9	
Seekers	June 19—24	Eco Adventure	July 17—22
Grades 3—4		Grades 5—6	
Followers	June 26—July 1	Seekers Camp	July 17—22
Grades 7—9		Grades 3—4	
Youth Camp	July 3—9	Culinary Camp	July 17—22
Grades 9—12		Grades 6—9	
Dadirri Camp	July 3—9	Finders Camp	July 24—29
Grades 9—12		Grades 5—6	
		Grand Camp	July 31—Aug 2
		Ages 5-10/Grandparents	

1113 E Camp Mack Rd

Milford, IN 46542

[www.campmack.org](http://www.campmack.org)



## Nature Nut News

### Checklist Complete

It is no secret that I am a list maker. My job as a Program Director comes with numerous details. Each season and event is different. There is hiring, marketing, volunteer recruitment, safety checklists, accreditation checklist, supervision checklist, and more. The beauty of lists is that I can save the main ones and tweak them. My pre-summer list and summer closing list are very common each year.

So, on August 14, it was checklist complete for summer 2021 as our last summer camp rolled out. Looking back it was a summer of learning in different ways than before. There were many adjustments on the fly rather than planning specifics months in advance.

Before summer there was much talk about camper mental health and how they dealt with isolation during Covid. Some of my best memories are the times of connection campers had with each other. The days of leading crafts where the campers sat down to work on a craft and everyone just talked for an hour straight until we told them it was time to move on to the next activity. Or, the night

recreation was pushed back and a campfire cancelled because the campers just wanted to play a little bit longer. And with 100% of the campers engaged in the activity, it was the right call to say, "Yes, play a little longer."

Now, where does a T-Rex and a Ferris wheel fit into all of this? Transitions. For me it is important to acknowledge the transitions between camp seasons. To close out a checklist and reflect before moving on to the next season. That picture is from the day I spent at the Indiana State Fair relaxing and doing nothing camp related. Today may be the 3rd or 4th day in a row with a heat index over 100 degrees, but autumn activities at camp are just around the corner. Time for a few more checklists as I begin to recruit volunteers for 2022, plan retreats, and vision for the future of camp. So, if you are feeling a bit run down thinking of all that needs to be done, take the time each day to do just one thing. Checklist complete.

Jessie Kreider, Program Director





## **Sunny Camp Mack**

### **United Way's "Day of Caring" with Zimmer-Biomet Groups**

Summer camp is over, and we are into our fall projects. This past week we had an event called a "Day of Caring" by United Way. United Way organizes a volunteer day with workers from lots of local businesses. We had three groups of five all from Zimmer-Biomet. They worked on three projects here at Camp.

The first project was painting the northwest restroom. It was looking a little beat up, so we are trying to make some upgrades. With this help we were able to scrape and paint one side and scrape the other side. We also painted the trim on the outside. We have some other ideas about what could be done, but we are still in the planning stage.

The second project we tackled was to trim some trails in the wilderness area. It is amazing how quickly the trees and bushes want to cover up our trails! I think we could use a crew to spend all summer in there trimming back the brush on our trails. Travis came back and led this crew, and they did a great job of opening some of our trails.

The third project was to finish the lower roof on the south side of Quinter Miller Auditorium. The Dekalb soccer boys took the old shingles off the roof a couple of years ago, and earlier this summer the Episcopal Senior High Mission Week group started putting shingles on. They had about a third of it on, making some good progress. The United Way group finished the roof, and all I need to do is to put the ridge cap on and do a little trim work at the top. I need to tell you the temperature on that day topped out at 93 and the humidity was just about the same. It was a tough day to work outside. We were so blessed to have these fifteen people come and help us on that day. It was such a giant leap forward in our work.

This all just reminds me again of how important volunteers are to this ministry. This "...sanctuary where people connect with God" would not exist without the thousands of volunteers who have built and repaired it over the past 96 years. Blessings to all of you!

Galen Jay, Facility Director



# Be Our Guest

## Joy Like a Fountain

A verse to a longtime favorite camp song “Peace Like a River” proclaims, “I’ve got joy like a fountain!”

I was considering the song and why there isn’t a verse about lakes (since it would be cool to sing near Lake Waubee), but the words that are in the song fit well with the bodies of water they are likened to, and I’m not sure what word would fit well with “lake” (maybe “sanctuary”?). Plus, “lake” is only one syllable, while the bodies of water listed in the song fit well because they have two syllables. So, though I wish there was a “lake” verse, for now, let’s explore one of the other verses. Does peace flow through you like a river, or love run deep in you like an ocean, or joy burst out of you like a fountain?

God connects with us and works through us in different ways. One way I have seen God’s joy lately is through my adorable nephew who is about to turn four months old. No, he’s not always happy, but when it comes, the joy on his face embodies child innocence and happiness that warms up a room. He seemingly exudes love with abandon, joy flowing out of him like a fountain. And, that in turn brings joy to my heart as a proud aunt.



I enjoyed a few days off last week to do a little recharging from the busy summer. I took a solo trip up to Marquette, MI and the surrounding area. It was a very quick trip and was spent driving about half of the time, but I’m glad I went. I got to know a few of the locals, even in the short time being there. On one of the main streets in town one day, an older person asked me how to work the parking meters. He was attempting to put money in on the opposite side, and I directed him around to the front. He was quite thankful and continued to chat with me (maybe to prolong his stay in the parking spot, or maybe just for some company; I would mostly guess the latter). It turns out he was from the area and continued to note several interesting facts about the upper peninsula, telling me stories of

his family, of Lake Superior, and of celebrities who had moved there. He recommends retiring there, as it’s safer than New York (his words). He was kind and was excited to tell me all about the state he lived in. I listened to him for about a half an hour, but it was a joy to be able to do so. Sure I wanted to grab a bite to eat before heading off to my next adventure, but I shifted plans and spent some time being a listening ear to someone who evidently needed someone to talk to.



Joy like a fountain? That’s what I saw in so many campers, counselors, volunteers, and others this summer. Not only when singing the beloved song, but also when helping each other out, when making new friends, when having a chance to be themselves, when singing silly songs, when learning a new skill, when overcoming a fear, and when praising God. I look forward to continuing to see those moments of joy as we continue into retreat season here at Camp Mack. As guests choose to spend time here, may this sanctuary bring joy to their hearts through the love of God, now and always.



Deanna Beckner, Guest Services Director





## Diversity Report

We were so glad to get back to the work of camp this summer. Our campers celebrated the invitations of our leaders to explore Creation through the eyes of wonder and the experience of love. It truly was a blessed season.

As we reflect on each week, we are amazed at the significantly increased diversity in our campers. It is not clear why that was the case, because we did not do anything differently as we began the registration process. Perhaps, we have begun noticing more. Perhaps we have become more welcoming without recognizing it. Regardless, it was a vibrant and beautiful summer.

Because of our experiences, we now have some tangible things to work on. It will be a great year as we consider:

- how to serve groups whose concept of time is not as rigid as ours. What does that look like when we have staff at a place prepared to serve, but the group is not ready to be served?
- how to connect with people whose experiences are far different from ours. How do we find the common connections we have and build relationships from there?
- how to share the joy we find in connection with God and spirit-filled Christian community with campers who have very little to no church or faith experiences. What does it mean to begin teaching Christ from scratch?
- how to give and receive grace as our views of the world around us come from starkly different backgrounds. How can we listen and share more intentionally and with minds open to the direction of the Holy Spirit?

Our journey will be a rich one, no doubt. But, we want to find the truth God has laid out before us.



# 2021 Wish List

It is exciting to see the many improvements we have made through the last year. We hope you can stop by to see them soon. Better yet, look for a program that fits your interests and join us!

Each year, we put together a list of facility repairs and maintenance we have prioritized. Ideally, we hope to accomplish all of them; however, without help from others, we don't have the resources to get them all done.

This is the list of projects we have prioritized for 2021. If you see a project that interests you, please contact Galen ([galen@campmack.org](mailto:galen@campmack.org)) and Todd ([todd@campmack.org](mailto:todd@campmack.org)) to see how you can become involved. These are all projects that an individual, church, or community or partner group could assist with financial support and/or volunteer labor. There is a lot here, but with faith, together we can accomplish great things.

Here is the 2021 updated list:

- Replace the upper roof on Sarah Major Lodge—completed
- Stonework repair on Quinter Miller foundation
- Replace the boiler in Sarah Major Lodge
- Replace the water heater in Sarah Major Lodge
- Replace the roof on Shultz Chapel—completed
- Replace the HVAC in the South Residence—completed
- Replace the water softener in Sarah Major Lodge—fully funded
- Remodel the upstairs women's restroom in Sarah Major Lodge—fully funded
- Replace the HVAC in Wampler Retreat Center
- Repair the electrical system in the East Stone restroom
- Repair the deck on the John Kline Welcome Center—in progress
- Repair the boardwalk in the wetlands—fully funded
- Complete the communications display in the John Kline Gathering Room—completed
- Repair the Mission Village boardwalk—fully funded

Follow along at [campmack.org](http://campmack.org) for monthly updates.

Thank you for your prayers, your financial support, your hours of service, and your presence here in this sanctuary place.



[campmack.org](http://campmack.org) | 574-658-4831 | [info@campmack.org](mailto:info@campmack.org)



## Another Way of Giving

### Antennas, and Switches, and CAT6, Oh My!

One of my ongoing projects this summer has been the internet here at Camp Mack. When we first installed Wi-Fi in our lodges, the internet was very much a luxury. Groups weren't insisting on Wi-Fi, but it was nice to have. In the last few years, the internet has become an essential part of many groups' Camp Mack experience. Whether they stream videos, Zoom in a guest speaker, or just check email, the internet is needed for both our guests and our staff that live onsite.

Earlier this spring, our antenna system that transmitted the internet to our lodges went down. After many emails and conversations with some friends from the Church of God (who hold a long-time annual summer family camp and weekend retreats at Camp Mack), we settled on a system that would bring the internet back to our lodges. On our first attempt at installation, we realized how thick the trees at Camp Mack had grown (specifically South of the John Kline Welcome Center). We moved the center point of the system to the Quinter Miller Auditorium. This meant running a cable underground from John Kline to Quinter Miller.

Things worked great until a prolonged power outage a few weeks later killed one of our switches. We tested and adapted again, and the system is progressing once more. When all is said and done, we will have 3 sending antennas, 4 receiving antennas, 7 new switches, over 10 new access points, and many feet of CAT6 cable. Below is a very simplified map to get an idea for how everything will be set up.

This project also enables us more control over our internet to best solve the problem at the moment rather than having to call in outside help. Special thanks to Jason and Andrew from the Church of God for helping with so many parts of this project. Also, thanks to Galen and his facility crew for trenching the conduit to Quinter Miller and setting up antennas.

Todd Eastis, Director of Development and Business



## **Kitchen News**

### **Successful Summer, Lots of Thanks**

It's transition time at camp. I love this time because things are slowing down a little bit, and I can reflect on the past few months. They have gone by in a crazy, fun, busy, blur.

This summer was like no other. The kitchen had fewer paid staff but many volunteers who donated their time and talents for multiple weeks. We started off feeling very rusty, as it had been so long since we had served the numbers we have in the summer season. And to top it off, we hadn't served family style since 2019! We brushed the rust off and were able to have a successful summer of feeding our campers some pretty great meals. As we review the evaluations we received from campers and leaders over the next few weeks, we will be able to look at our menu and tweak some things to make next summer even better.

One of my biggest joys during the summer camp season is getting to connect with all the leaders, counselors, and summer staff members who help our campers have a great experience. While I was much busier this year with the meal to meal preparations, I loved that I was needed out on the serving line, which made it easier to chat with people. I am not always the chattiest person, but I love hearing how everyone's weeks are going. I am starting to recognize more campers and leaders as they return year after year, especially the campers with special diets. It's so great being able to recognize them all and meet their needs in the dining hall.

We often get thank you cards from groups at the end of their stay, appreciating the work we have done and thanking us for the food. I LOVE this recognition from all our guests, because in food service, many times you only hear the negative. People will always tell you if something isn't meeting their expectations, but our guests at Camp Mack are always so AMAZING about letting us know that they appreciate what we are doing in the camp kitchen. It's a great feeling. We even had one of our groups give us a parade around the dining room while they cheered for our staff. I post every single one of those cards in my office so all the staff can see them and read them. Even if they just have my name on them, the whole team gets the credit, because none of us can do our jobs without each other.

Vanessa Bohannon, Food Services Director





## **Education Station**

### **Garden Club Ends on a High Note**

The second year of garden club ended recently with an overnighter at camp, which is a super fun way to end a year of hard work. Our last few weeks of the club involved picking tomatoes for the food pantry, writing thank you cards, and saying goodbye for now to new friends. The overnighter was our last big event for this season, and all that is left is to tear down the garden! We had a ton of fun at camp this year – we went fishing, boating, and swimming, did some archery, cooked sweet corn over a campfire, stayed up WAY too late, relaxed in hammocks, helped Ed make popcorn in the kettle, and got to hang out with animals.

We had 30 kids registered for the club this year and while some weeks were definitely crazy, we learned a lot and made some good memories along the way. Garden club has been an amazing way for kids to make friends, learn about gardening, and help their community by growing produce that gets donated to people who need it. We are so thankful for Creekside Church of the Brethren for the space, Ron Nicodemus for teaching the kids about beekeeping, Jessie Kreider for taking them on a bird hike, and the Outdoor Ministries Association for the grant money. We were also fortunate to have three volunteers who helped out this year: Casey Bassler (a club kid's mom), Cassidy Conrad (Camp Mack summer staffer), and Linda Clemons (Camp Mack summer staffer). The amazing Ed Pippenger jumped in to supervise the boys during the overnighter as well. And thank you, dear reader, for supporting Camp Mack and the ministries it provides to the people in our communities! We couldn't do it without your support!

Kristen Werling, Outdoor Education Coordinator









# **Camp Mack 5K September 19th**



**Register at [campmack.org/5k](http://campmack.org/5k)**

